

Message Text

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154957

FOLLOWING REPEAT MASERU 00663 SECSTATE INFO GABONE MBABANE
PRETORIA LUSAKA DARESSALAAM TAIPEI JUN 23:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, CH, TW: MZ, LT, IR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON LESOTHO'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF AN INFORMAL DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE ON
JUNE 22 FOR THE AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE COMMENTED
ON (A) HIS VISIT TO PEKING, (B) MOZAMBIQUE, (C) RELATIONS WITH
UGANDA, (D) MALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT, (E) CANADIAN AID GRANT,
AND (F) REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN.

2. VISIT TO COMMUNIST CHANIA: KOTSOKOANE SAID HE SPENT 14 DAYS
IN THE PRC AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL
AND HEALTH FIELDS. HE HAD 3 DAYS OF TALKS IN PEKING INCLUDING AN
EXCHANGE WITH CHOU. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE CHICOMS EXPLAINED THAT
IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
LESOTHO UNLESS THE GOL BROKE WITH TAIWAN. ACCORDING TO KOTSOKOANE
THE CHICOMS SAID THE DECISION WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE GOL.

KOTSOKOANE CLAIMED THAT PEKING DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANXIOUS TO
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ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LESOTHO AND MADE NO OFFERS

OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

3. KOTSOKOANE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE GOL HAD NOT MADE A DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN OR TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. HE SAID "THE SITUATION WAS UNDER REVIEW". KOTSOKOANE ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE MAGNITUDE OR QUALITY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM TAIWAN AND SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE GOL COULD EXACT MORE ASSISTANCE FROM THE PRC.

4. MOZAMBIQUE: KOTSOKOANE SAID HE WAS DEPARTING JUNE 23 FOR LOURENCO MARQUES TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE. HE INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ON EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH FRELIMO AND MALAWI REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATIVE ACTION TO INSURE BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS AND WAGES FOR MIGRANT WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN THIS CONNECTION KOTSOKOANE SAID THE GOL WANTED TO UP-GRADE BASOTHO LABOR SKILLS IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BREAK DOWN IN THE JOB RESERVATION SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. UGANDA: KOTSOKOANE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE GOL HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UGANDA AND THAT KAMPALA WAS EXPECTED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO MASERU SOON.

6. THE LALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT: KOTSOKOANE INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE IRANIANS HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN FINANCING THE MALIBAMATSO WATER PROJECT AND THAT THE CANADIANS HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY APPROACHED THE GOL AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN PURCHASING WATER FROM THE PROJECT.

7. CANADIAN AID: KOTSOKOANE SAID THAT HE HAD SIGNED A SIX MILLION DOLLAR GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN MOUNTAINOUS AREA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO OTTAWA.

8. THE OICI: KOTSOKOANE COMMENTED THAT OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDER CHAIRMAN REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LESOTHO AND THAT THE GOL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OICI PROJECTS.
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KOTSOKOANE SAID THAT SULLIVAN PROMISED TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO LESOTHO IN AUGUST TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.
BOLEN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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